FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 APRIL 1986

Libya

JANA's political editor denounced the EEC clampdown on the numbers and movements of Libyans in Europe as a "U.S. decision," warning that Libya will henceforth be obliged to treat the Europeans as "accomplices" in the "ugly U.S. crime." By "negating" their previous stands, the EEC states will ultimately involve themselves in the results of the "savage U.S. aggression" against Libya, the JANA commentary stated. In another development concerning European relations, the Foreign Liaison Bureau asked the Italian ambassador for "clarification" concerning the 6th Fleet's return to bases in Italy, telling the ambassador that Italy should prevent the U.S. fleet from using port facilities given to the United States for NATO purposes, Tripoli television reported.

A commentary by JANA's political editor stressed that striking Al-Qadhdhafi personally will not eradicate violence but will have the opposite effect.

Italian police have arrested a former Libyan diplomat in connection with a plan to assassinate the U.S. ambassador in Rome last year, Rome radio disclosed.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisian Security Situation — KUNA reported that a "number" of students and security personnel were injured in clashes at Tunis University 21 April following the killing of a student in a Tunis suburb by state security personnel, who suspected the student of being a thief. These clashes, KUNA noted, followed last week's disturbances at the university in response to the U.S. attack on Libya. In a related development, opposition leader Ahmed Mestiri was imprisoned 21 April following his arrest 16 April on charges of organizing a demonstration in Tunis to protest the U.S. air raids, according to AFP, adding that the date of Mestiri's trial has not been determined.

Algerian President on Libya — While acknowledging past "differences of views" with Libya, the Algerian president, in a speech broadcast by Algiers radio, declared that Algeria nevertheless cast "all differences aside" following the U.S. attack on that country. He asserted that it is the Algerian people's and its leadership's "duty to support" Libya during both "good and hard" times.

Sudan

TMC Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab "will hand over" the command of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces 24 April to the new commander in chief, General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah, according to SUNA. Another SUNA report revealed that the Constituent Assembly's first session will be held 30 April instead of 26 April to allow deputies from southern Sudan to reach Khartoum.

As for the military situation in the south, an SPLA communique broadcast by the SPLA's clandestine radio announced that the town of Pachala, near the Ethiopian border, was captured by the SPLA 19 April. Earlier, military sources cited by the Sudanese Armed Forces' newspaper claimed that over 80 percent of all SPLA forces stationed between Rumbek and Yirol have been killed or wounded, according to SUNA.

OPEC

Ten OPEC member countries have agreed that OPEC production in the 3d and 4th quarters of 1986 will be set at 16.3 and 17.3 mb/d, thereby setting the average output for 1986 "realistically" at 16.7 mb/d, OPEC announced in a press release carried by OPECNA at the conclusion of the 15-21 April meeting in Geneva. However, Algeria, Iran, and Libya considered that OPEC's goal of restoring market stability can only be achieved through lower production levels, the communique noted.

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting in remarks reported by IRNA, the Iranian oil minister stressed Iran's opposition to any decision that fails to assure a steady increase in prices and he described the price war as a "conspiracy" launched by Saudi Arabia and inspired by the United States.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian naval units "intercepted" seven commercial ships and oil tankers 20 April sailing near the Strait of Hormuz, according to a communique cited by IRNA, and released them after ascertaining that they were not transporting cargo bound for Iraq. In other action, the communique said that the Iraqis sustained 60 casualties in fighting in the western fronts 20 April and that Iran thwarted an Iraqi asssault in the Sumar region early 21 April. It also announced that Iraq suffered at least 150 dead and wounded in clashes in the Zobeydah-Bayat area 20 April.

On the Iraqi side, an Iraqi military spokesman reaffirmed Iraq's rejection of recent Iranian claims of a major battle in the Al-Faw region, terming them "mere lies," INA reported. The spokesman also rebutted further Iranian allegations that Iraq is using chemical weapons, asserting that Iraq "has not used" such weapons, and does not have to use them.

Israel-France

AFP, citing "informed" sources, revealed that France has proposed reopening talks with Israel on supplying that country with a nuclear reactor on condition that France be allowed to "replace" the nuclear reactor in Iraq that Israel destroyed in 1981. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, currently in France, refused to comment on the report following talks with his French counterpart.

Lebanon

A number of kidnapped Europeans were recently transferred from Beirut to the Iranian-controlled Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio also stated that artillery shelling of residential areas in East and West Beirut 21 April caused "many" casualties.

DRA

USSR Visit — Council of Ministers Chairman Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, heading a large delegation, left for Moscow 21 April, BAKHTAR reported.

Mujahidin Losses — Almost 140 mujahidin and civilians were killed in a "major" bombardment of Arghandab, northwest Qandahar, "last week," AFP reported citing "wounded" persons. For their part, mujahidin sources admitted to 70 deaths and over 100 wounded in fighting to retain their "strategic" base at Zhawar, 12 km from the Pakistani border. In other action, four persons were injured in Qandahar city after two bombs planted by the mujahidin exploded "recently," according to Kabul radio.

Pakistan-DRA

Karachi radio reported that Pakistan lodged a strong protest with the DRA 21 April over two "unprovoked" DRA shelling incidents 19 April in which an Afghan refugee was killed in Khurram Agency.

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Keshtmand-Led Delegation Departs for USSR

LD211531 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, 21 Apr (BAKHTAR) — Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, heading a high-ranking state delegation, left this morning for the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Government for an official and friendly visit.

A number of the Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, vice chairmen and members of the Council of Ministers, the head of the DRA Supreme Court, and F.A. Tabeyev, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Kabul, were present at Kabul International airport to see the delegation off.

The delegation accompanying Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand includes: Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee; Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of electrical energy; Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation and water resources; Muhammad 'Aziz, minister of light industries and foodstuffs; Sayyed Murtaza, head of the management department of the Council of Ministers; Abdul Tawab Zaka'ye, vice minister of foreign affairs; and Abdul Baqi Samandari, deputy finance minister.

Ratebzad Departs for WPC Session in Sofia

LD212238 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and president of the DRA peace, solidarity and friendship organization, left this morning for Bulgaria to participate at a meeting of the World Peace Council Presidium which is due to be held in Sofia.

Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications; the deputy head of the department of international affairs of the PDPA Central Committee; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Kabul were present at the Kabul airport departure.

Military Officials Attend Meeting on Recruitment

LD212357 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Excerpt] A meeting of members of the Joint Headquarters of the Northern Zone was held today in connection with the implementation of the process of recruitment and call-up and the expansion and consolidation of the DRA Armed Forces.

The meeting was held at the zone headquarters in Konduz city. Present were: Brigadier General Muhammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Major General Shah Nawaz Tanay, CGS; and the deputy ministers of the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs.

At the opening of the meeting, Sher Aqa Seresht, head of the northern zone, spoke about the implementation of the process of recruitment and call-up at the northern zone provinces for the consolidation and expansion of the social bases of the people's revolutionary rule at localities and the realization of the decisions and resolutions of the 16th and 17th PDPA Central Committee plenums and the adoption of serious measures in this regard. Secretaries of the provincial party committee, heads of the executive committees of the Council of the People's Representatives of Konduz, Baghlan, and Badakhshan Provinces and the governor of Takhar then presented reports in connection with the work and activities of their relevant organs.

AFP Details Guerrillas' Casualties in Qandahar

BK220449 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpt] April 22 (AFP) -- Almost 140 guerrillas and civilians were killed in a major bombardment near Qandahar in south Afghanistan last week, according to wounded people reaching Quetta in southwest Pakistan on Monday.

Arghandab, northwest of Qandahar, was the target, with fierce ground fighting and numerous bombardments under way for the past 10 days, they said. Soviet and Afghan army forces held the modern part of the town and the airport, the guerrillas the old town, the witnesses said.

Guerrilla sources meanwhile reported losing 70 men, with more than 100 wounded, in a battle to defend their strategic base at Zhawar a dozen kilometres from the border.

The base commander, receiving treatment at Miran Shah on the Pakistani side, said 5,000 mujihadin had massed to defend what is a traditional major strongpoint commanding one of the guerrillas's most frequented routes. They have been under attack since April 4.

Counterrevolutionaries Detonate Bombs in Qandahar

LD212253 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] The savage counterrevolutionary elements who claim the Islamic faith recently planted two bombs in the Kherga-e Mobarak Hazrat-e Rasogul in Qandahar city. As a result of the blast, two children, an elderly woman, and an elderly man were injured.

A BAKHTAR correspondent report from Qandahar city that as a result of the explosion of these bombs a large section of Kherga-e Mobarak were destroyed and [words indistinct].

The citizens of Qandahar city seriously condemned this anti-Islamic crime by the rebels who cover their faces with the false mask of Islam, and cursed the perpetrators of this incident and their imperialist bosses headed by the U.S. criminal imperialism under whose instruction the counterrevolutionary elements carry out crimes, terror, and murder in our country.

AFP: Bangladesh Deploys Army Units on Border

BK210913 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] New Delhi, April 21 (AFP) — Bangladesh has deployed Army units and ordered mobilisation of all able-bodied villagers near the Bangla-Indian border in south Tripura, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said Monday. The reported deployment came as tension continued to mount between the two neighbours following India's start of work earlier this month on a river embankment to protect a village housing some 16,000 people.

Quoting intelligence sources, PTI said in its report from Tripura that the units were deployed to backup para-military forces stationed along the western sector of River Muhuri. The agency said all able-bodied villagers in the Pursuram-Kalikapur stretch had been ordered to mobilise as troops began erecting defence positions and digging bunkers.

In the adjoining Feni sector, the Bangladesh Army was put under "full preparedness," the agency said. There was no independent confirmation of the report. "We have no information... This is news to us," Enamul Haq, Bangladesh High Commission spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here. Indian federal Defence Ministry spokesmen were not immediately available for comment.

A PTI reporter who toured the area Sunday said he saw 20 bunkers and eight medium machine gun nests on the Bangladesh side. Under an agreement between New Delhi and Dhaka, the international border is to be manned only by para-military forces and not the Army.

New Delhi suspended work onthe em bankment when Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) exchanged fire on five occasions after construction began April 9. Dhaka has said construction of the embankment was against the spirit of a bilateral agreement on sharing the waters of rivers flowing through the two countries.

Protest Lodged With Bangladesh Over Border Firing

BK220319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] A flag meeting between the Border Security Force [BSF] and Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] was held in Belonia in South Tripura District last Sunday [20 April]. The leader of the BSF delegation, Mr B.N. Bhattacharya, lodged a strong a protest with his counterpart for the unprovoked firing on Indian territory at Muhuri Char area. Mr Bhattacharya also demanded withdrawal of additional forces and abolition of bunkers on the Bangladesh side to defuse tension. The BDR was represented by Colonel Ali Akbar.

Libya Denies Involvement in Sikh Terrorism

LD191404 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Apr (JANA) — A source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has denied allegations published by the Indian newspaper *HINDUSTAN TIMES* in its issue today in which it alleges that the Jamahiriyah is connected with acts of terrorism by the Sikh movement.

The source says that the committee denies the existence of any connection of the Jamahiriyah with any of these acts anywhere in the world, stressing that these allegations have been spread and echoed by American intelligence. The source adds that these fabrications and lies coincide with America's frenzied campaign and its failed attempts to justify its barbaric aggression against our people.

The source voices regret over the fact that this paper has fallen victim to this deceptive American campaign which also seeks to infringe on the leading role of India in the Nonaligned Movement to condemn and expose the barbaric American aggression against the Jamahiriyah.

Further Reportage of Nonaligned Ministers Meeting

TANJUG Details Decisions

LD192307 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2025 GMT 19 Apr 86

["Pool" item]

[Text] New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI) — The ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries tonight achieved a consensus on major issues but on the Gulf war a fresh appeal to Iran and Iraq to restore peace was considered the only acceptable proposition.

The four-day meeting condemned the US bombing of Libyan cities and decided to send a six-member delegation to Tripoli to personally convey the Non-Aligned Movement's solidarity with the Libyan people. The delegation to be led by Indian External Affairs Minister Bali Ram Bhagat, includes the foreign ministers of Cuba, Yugoslavia, Ghana, Congo and Senegal. It leaves for Tripoli tomorrow morning and will also go to New York to take part in the UN deliberations on the issue.

The six-member delegation will hand over copies of the communique adopted at the emergency session of the Coordinating Bureau to the president of the UN General Assembly and the secretary general.

The conference condemned terrorism in all its manifestations and called upon states, particularly Western nations, to forbid recruitment, use of finance, transmit, training and directing of mercenaries.

The conference strongly reaffirmed the principle that outer space — the common heritage of mankind — should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the welfare and interests of all countries.

The foreign ministers welcomed the comprehensive programme for nuclear disarmament put forward by the Soviet Union whose objectives and priorities they noted, were in consonance with the position of the non-aligned countries.

They called for a comprehensive treaty on the complete prohibition of testing, stockpiling, deployment and production of all types of nuclear weapons in all environments by nuclear weapon states.

The foreign ministers expressed deep concern at the increasingly frequent attempts and pressures to weaken the role of the United Nations and depreciated the witholding of financial obligations to the UN.

The conference also laid stress on resolution of disputes between the member countries and reitereated the movement's resolve that Antarctica should not become the objective of international discord and should be accessible to all nations.

Disagreement on Iran-Iraq War

LD181450 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1238 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] New Delhi, 18 April (TANJUG) — The Political Committee of the Coordinating Bureau has not succeeded to produce the text of the paragraph of the final document concerning the war between Iraq and Iran. The spokesman of the conference of non-aligned in Delhi Parthasarathy has announced that the Political Committee could not agree on the final wording of the text due to objections both by Iraq and Iran. Although the session of the Political Committee lasted more than five hours a compromise was not reached and the whole issue will be taken up at the full plenary session of the Coordinating Bureau Parthasarathy said.

Meanwhile Indian Minister for Foreign Affairs Bhagat met today both the foreign minister of Iran Velayati and Iraq Tariq 'Aziz in an effort to mediate. He also met foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait.

Appeal Made To End War

LD192255 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2032 GMT 19 Apr 86

["Pool" item]

[Text] New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI) — The Non-Aligned movement tonight decided to make a fresh appeal to Iran and Iraq to end their six-year old war. The decision to issue the appeal emerged as a consensus at the ministerial meeting of Coordinating Bureau of the nonaligned countries after hectic consultations during the last four days. The appeal will be made by Indian External Affairs minister Bali Ram Bhagat, while presiding over the concluding session of the bureau meeting scheduled to begin around midnight tonight. The appeal is on the lines of the one made by former Indian premier late Indira Gandhi as chairperson of the nonaligned movement at its seventh summit here in 1983.

The Gulf war, between the two non-aligned countries which began in 1980, has threatened the unity of the movement and it has always been difficult to get the two countries to agree on any formula to end the war.

During the last four days. the Indian delegation has had prolonged consultations with the heads of delegation of both Iran and Iraq and others concerned to find a suitable formulation acceptable to both which could be incorporated in the political declaration.

This evening Bali Ram Bhagat and secretary [words indistinct] made frantic [words indistinct] to Iran and Iraq to agree to the conference issuing a fresh appeal.

The conference sources said that diplomatic efforts would continue to find a formula acceptable to both warring nations and consistent with the ideals of the non-aligned movement.

India has been trying for restoration of peace in the region. Efforts were made in this direction during the visits of Bhagat to Iran, Kuwait andBahrain. On the eve of the present conference, [name indistinct] had visited Iraq. India's efforts appeared optimistic last year, but the conflict escalate. Iran had rejected the peace moves by the United Nations, the Security Council and Islamic Confernce.

Chemical Warfare Guidelines Approved

GF190703 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's recommendations at the current session of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] foreign ministers' session — based on the greater need for a ban on the use, production, and stockpiling of chemical weapons and the fact that the Iraqi regime has widely used these armaments in the imposed war recently — were approved for addition to the agenda of this session's political committee.

One of the members of the participating Iranian delegation on the political committee stated: Although it has been only a few years since the Islamic Republic of Iran joined NAM, it has played an active role in policymaking and in other issues. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has submitted a resolution on the ecological dangers of the use of chemical weapons to the political committee.

Economic issues pertaining to the raw materials of the Third World, oil, the deliverance of the Third World from economic exploitation, and the need for releasing the raw materials and resources market of the Third World from the control of the wholesale buyers are among other proposals of the Iranian delegation to the political committee of the seventh NAM foreign ministers' session.

According to this report, the issue of the security of the Mediterranean and U.S. aggression against Libya also came under discussion by the political-economic committee and the Syrian Government suggested that a high-level NAM delegation should go to Tripoli and subsequently, to New York, at the conclusion of the current session to state the NAM stance at the UN Security Council. This proposal was approved by the political-economic committee.

PLO's Qaddumi Addresses Meeting

GF181955 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutuf [Faruq Qaddumi], director of the PLO Political Department, delivered the PLO speech before the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau currently meeting in New Delhi. At the beginning of his speech he greeted India and its prime minister for their principled positions on supporting the Palestinian issue. He referred to the complicated international pressures which our world is experiencing that presage dangerous results, not only in the framework of the movement but also on the world peoples.

Brother Abu al-Lutuf called on the Nonaligned Movement to play a major role in preventing the continuous deterioration in international relations. He called on the Nonaligned Movement to make the Harare summit a major stop in consolidating international cooperation and in tackling the chronic economic and political problems within the framework of the special importance of the international disputes, such as the issue of armament and disarmament. [sentence as heard] He called on the movement to strengthen the principle of unity and cooperation, activate the bases of development among member countries, promote collective independence, back the establishment of an economic and currency system, and encourage a North-South dialogue and South-South economic cooperation to confront the economic, scientific, and technical onslaught — thus ending the pillaging of the peoples' wealth.

Brother Abu al-Lutuf referred to the perfidious U.S. aggression on fraternal Libya and announced the PLO's denunciation of this malicious aggression. He stressed the PLO's solidarity with the Libyan people on their legitimate right to defend their sovereignty and independence. He called for working to convert the Mediterranean into an area of peace.

Brother Abu al-Lutuf referred to the continuous Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people, against their rights and against the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. He held the United States and Israel responsible for obstructing the efforts of the Nonaligned Movement and international efforts to attain peace based on recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to return home, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national soil. He then assailed the U.S. position toward our Palestinian people and their inalienable national rights.

Brother Abu al-Lutf referred to the brutal Israeli practices against our people as a result of Israel's implementation of the iron fist policy, and the acts of repression, terrorism, arrest, torture, mass expulsion, land confiscation, demolition of houses, building of new settlements, and Israel's policy of racial discrimination, in addition to the acts of Judaizing and obliterating pan-Arab historical features and the desecration of religious sanctities.

Brother Abu al-Lutuf declared our people's legitimate rights to use all available methods to resist occupation on the path of forcibly regaining their inalienable national rights, no matter how great the sacrifices.

He affirmed that the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian Arab territories and the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

Brother Abu al-Lutuf added: We believe that the best solution will be through an international conference under UN supervision, independent PLO participation on an equal footing with the other parties to the conflict, and the participation of the USSR, the United States, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council.

He referred to the suffering of the heroic Lebanese people as a result of Israel's occupation of part of Lebanon, and as a result of U.S. commitment to the Israeli policy of aggression. He condemned the brutal raids to which our Palestinian people in Lebanon are subjected and which are aimed at exterminating them, while the international community refrains from extending to them any guarantees or protection of their security and their legitimate right to life.

Brother Abu al-Lutuf criticized the Nonaligned Movement because of its inability to achieve a peaceful formula concerning the Iraq-Iran conflict which flared up recently and whose destructive effects exceed all limits and description.

In conclusion, he asserted the PLO's solidarity with the struggle of the Latin American peoples for the sake of liberty and independence. He condemned the policy of intervention and pressure which the United States is practicing against the region. He also asserted the PLO's solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia against colonialism and all forms of racial discrimination.

Address by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister

BK191416 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, April 19 (AFP) — Libya and Nicaragua both fired broadsides at the United States Saturday with the Libyan Foreign Minister telling a non-aligned movement meeting that "direct blows" should be aimed at the United States everywhere.

The previous speaker, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, accused the United States of unparalleled "savagery" in seeking to dominate other nations. Washington had proclaimed its right to lead covert actions against other governments, he said, but this was merely a "euphemism for murder, abductions, and terrorist actions perpetrated by gangs of murderers." He asked the forum: "Has a greater aberration, a greater savagery ever been seen?" The bombing of Libya was "reprehensible" and showed up the "neo-Fascism" of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Mr D'Escoto Brockman attacked the "insatiable greed" of U.S. economic domination and said that Mr Reagan had sent a clear message to Latin American countries: "Don't try to free yourselves, because you will suffer a lot."

He offered the Nicaraguan capital Managua as the site for the ninth non-aligned summit to be held in 1989, after the summit in Harare, Zimbabwe, this September. The selection of Managua would be a "deserved stimulus to our people to carry on the fight that has been going on in our country since 1979," he said.

Mexican Delegate's Speech

FL191628 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0445 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX) — Victor Flores Olea, deputy secretary of multilateral affairs, has said it is eveyone's responsibility to check the tendency for self-destruction and we can spare no effort in favor of good sense and rationality.

During the ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Nonaligned Countries, the Mexican diplomat said life on earth is threatened by a limitless arms race. He said militarism has sacrificed the development of countries and the current crisis is not foreign to the generation of modern instruments of death. Because of this, said Flores Olea, the fundamental task of the Nonaligned Movement should be the common struggle against the arms race to achieve complete independence and self-determination for a true international democracy.

Flores Olea said Mexico, Argentina, Greece, India, Switzerland and Tanzania — the Group of Six — have promoted a constructive role in favor of disarmament at international forums and have doubled their efforts to end the arms race.

The Mexican representative stressed that his government has said the violation of any state's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity cannot be justified, regardless of the reason.

In reference to Central America, Flores Olea stressed it is essential to restore law in the area in order to achieve agreements on all questions of common interest. He said the Contadora Act for peace and cooperation in Central America, which is based on a clear political decision, is a valid instrument to establish a regional order respectful of the democratic plurality of nations.

Finally, the Mexican diplomat said Latin America's efforts in favor of a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict has initiated a new era in inter-American relations for peace and cannot be submitted to the arbitrary will of power. To complete this task, added Flores Olea, it is necessary for all nonaligned countries to close ranks and increase solidarity and political action.

Further on Mangwende Speech

MB170757 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0140 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Harare, April 17, SAPA — The Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs, Dr Witness Mangwende, today appealed to the international community to give diplomatic, material and moral assistance to the "liberation movements" of southern Africa.

In an address to a plenary session of the ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Movement (NAM) countries in New Delhi, a copy of which was released in Harare, Dr Mangwende said the situation in southern Africa was too dangerous and "must urgently be resolved."

"It is therefore essential that we redouble our diplomatic, material and moral assistance to the liberation movements. The PAC, ANC and SWAPO be expected to carry the struggle through with resolutions and solidarity messages alone, important though these may be. They need concrete material support," he said.

He appealed to all member states to meet their obligations towards the "suffering masses" of South Africa and SWA/Namibia by contributing to the NAM fund for SWA/Namibia and other UN programmes for southern Africa. "The carnage in South Africa is now reaching genocidal proportions and it should not be taken for granted that the non-racial societies in Africa, and the world in general, can remain unaffected forever by what is going on in that country.

He accused Pretoria of continuing its policy of destabilisation of the independent states in the region. "As the struggle has intensified inside South Africa itself, so too has the regime intensified its acts of aggression, subversion and sabotage against its neighbours," he said.

He also accused Pretoria of threatening to invade Botswana and Zimbabwe and of continously polluting the airwaves with notorious broadcasts of "hate and subversion." "Targetted at my country is the so-called Radio Truth, which tries to rouse racial and tribal animosities within Zimbabwe," he noted.

On Namibia, Dr Mangwende called on the U.S. not to give respectability to the "racist" intentions of South Africa by linking SWA/Namibian independence to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Commenting on U.S. aid to UNITA, he said "this does not serve the interests of the Angolan people, nor the majority of South African or Namibia people, but antagonises the rest of Africa."

Dr Mangwende said there was "little hope" in southern Africa and the region had slipped further towards the precipice, "both as a result of developments in the region as well as decisions taken by outside forces."

Protest Lodged With DRA Over 19 April Shelling

BK211535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] The Afghan Armed Forces fired three tank shells on Saturday morning [19 April], which fell in the Lakka Tiga area of the Khurram Agency, as a result of which one Afghan refugee was killed. Later, in the afternoon of the same day, the Afghan Armed Forces fired 53 artillery shells, which fell in the (Kotghai) area 8 miles west of Parachinar.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this afternoon. A strong protest was lodged with him on these unprovoked attacks.

Visiting PRC Vice Minister Meets Zia, Junejo

BK220132 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] The Chinese vice minister for machine building industry, Mr Zhao Mingsheng, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. They exchanged views on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. The president appreciated the assistance being provided by China for the industrial and economic development of Pakistan.

The Chinese vice minister also called on the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo. He informed the prime minister that a proposal for the expansion of the heavy mechanical complex and the heavy forge and foundry complex at Taxila was under consideration by the Chinese Government. The expansion will help ensure optimum production at the two complexes, providing a fillip to the industrial and economic progress of Pakistan.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo appreciating the Chinese assistance in the economic and (?structural) fields expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries would continue to grow. He requested the Chinese vice minister to convey his good wishes to the Chinese prime minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang.

Reportage on Visit of Saudi Crown Prince

Arrives 19 Apr

BK191612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] The Saudi Arabian crown prince, Sultan ibn Sulayman, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 5-day visit to Pakistan. He was the first Muslim astronaut when he went into space aboard the American spacecraft *Discovery* in June last year.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport he said Muslim scientists should make concerted efforts to find ways to achieve development in the field of technology, including space technology. Sultan ibnSulayman said Pakistan should take the initiative inspace technology as it has an adequate number of efficient scientists. He also referred to the noteworthy relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Meets With Prime Minister

BK201634 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Saudi crown prince, Sultan ibn Sulayman, and his delegation held a formal meeting with the prime minister in Rawalpindi this evening. The prime minister welcomed him for being the first astronaut to bring great honor and pride to the Muslim world. The prince told of his experiences in 7 days of space travel. Federal minister for science and technology, Hamid Nasir Chatha, hosted a dinner in honor of the distinguished guest in Islamabad last night.

Honored by Ziaul Haq

BK210519 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Apri 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq decorated Prince Sultan ibn Sulayman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud with Hilal-i Pakistan at a special investiture ceremony in Rawalpindi this evening. The award was conferred in recognition of his outstanding services to the cause of the Muslim ummah [community] and expression of the deep appreciation of the people and Government of Pakistan for scientific adventure and outstanding role as the first Muslim astronaut. Prince Sultan ibn Sulayman ventured into space on board U.S. space shuttle *Discovery* last year. He remained in space for 8 days in a number of scientific experiments.

Earlier, Prince Sultan ibn Sulayman had a meeting with the president and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Prince Sultan along with his delegation also paid a courtesy call on the prime minister in Rawalpindi this evening. The prince described his experiences of 7 day's journey in the orbit to the prime minister.

Junejo Asserts Right To Acquire Nuclear Technology

BK221021 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, laid the foundation stone of the Center for Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy in Quetta today. Speaking on the occasion, he said acquisition of nuclear technology is the basic right of Pakistan and nobody can deny it to us. We need nuclear technology for health, agriculture, energy and other sectors.

The prime minister said Pakistan wants to promote nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and has no other objective. The nuclear technology is not only a more developed system for diagnosis but is also helpful in the treatement of cancer and other complicated ailments.

BANGLADESH

Opposition Says Ershad Violates Election Neutrality

BK190553 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Awami League president, Sheikh Hasina, has accused President Ershad of violating his commitment to maintain neutrality in the next month's parliamentary elections. She alleged that President Ershad is using official media for campaigning for the candidates of the progovernment Jatiya Party.

Foreign Secretary on Border Issue With India

BK210655 Dhaka BSS in English 0635 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Dhaka, April 21 BSS — Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday expressed the hope that the Muhurir Char issue could be amicably sorted out with New Delhi at the technical level. He was talking to reporters at the airport after attending the non-aligned foreign ministers meeting which was held at the Indian capital New Delhi. He said India had not ratified the land boundary agreement of 1974 which was signed between the prime ministers of Bangladash and India providing that neither side should undertake construction to change the course of the river.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has strongly protested against construction of revetments by India along the Muhuri River and on the Muhurir Char inside Bnagladesh territory.

SRI LANKA

Foreign Minister Briefs Jayewardene on Gandhi Talks

BK211143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed yesterday briefed President Jayewardene on his meeting with Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi where he presented Sri Lanka's new proposals to end the Tamil ethnic conflict.

Also present at the meeting was National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali.

Mr Hameed, who returned to Colombo on Saturday night, is learned to have conveyed to President Jayewardene Premier Gandhi's assurance that the proposals would be carefully studied and the Tamil groups consulted.

It is only thereafter the next phase would be known.

Mr Hameed, who went to New Delhi to attend the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau meeting, had a brief meeting with Premier Gandhi on Friday during which he handed over the new proposals.

6 Soldiers, 'Several Terrorists' Killed

BK211133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Six soldiers and several terrorists were killed in a gun battle which followed a terrorist attack on an Army patrol leaving Thongdamanar camp in Jaffna around 0800 [0230 GMT] this morning.

According to LANKA PUWATH the terrorists had launched the attack taking cover in the [words indistinct] left Thondamanar.

They had used mortars, rocket propelled grenades, and automatic weapons in the attack.

The terrorists had later set fire to the temple chariot in an effort to discredit the security forces.

LANKA PUWATH reports that the citizens committee at Thondomanar had refused to meet the security forces to discuss the damage caused to the (?coble) in the terrorist attack.

Majlis Speaker: U.S. Raid Aimed at All Islamic States

LD201225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Excerpts] According to a report of a Central News Unit correspondent, a large Labbayk-ya Imam convoy from Tehran composed of seven divisions of engineering-technical forces from ministries, foundations, state companies, the Majlis, and educational centers was sent off for the warfronts this morning by the Majlis speaker and deputies, the prime minister and the Cabinet, state, and judicial officials and a large crowd of Tehran citizens.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, noted the pure enthusiasm and human compassion of the volunteer forces and stressed the epic-making glory of the large Labbayk-ya Imam convoy. He said: Volunteers on the road to Karbala', you are now the guarantors of the credibility and greatness of the administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Your presence at the warfronts and your devotion to the task of technical problems will add to the effectiveness of the many divisions of battle-tested forces and will preserve the lives of thousands of warriors who need your expertise and knowledge.

Commenting on the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Islamic nation, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said: We must realize that this move by the United States is directed not only against Libya but is also aimed at many other nations, particularly Islamic nations. The Islamic Revolution has frightened the arrogants' hearts so much that they are always conspiring against Islam and its revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then praised the Iranian Government for continuing to make extensive resources available to the warriors and expressed his hope that the paths to Karbala' and Jerusalem will be opened up as soon as possible through the coordinated efforts of the Armed Forces, Guards Corps, Basij forces, and the administration, as well as all committed forces and the unprecedented support of the people under the leadership of the imam of the nation. [slogans, chants]

Khamene'i: No 'Military Move' Against Kuwait

LD211218 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i declared here Monday that the Islamic Republic of Iran had no intention to make a military move against Kuwait, Qatar or any other regional country. Addressing a gathering of the officials of construction jihad from throughout the country, the president added that the Islamic Republic of Iran believed that countries with different systems of government could enjoy a peaceful coexistance. He stressed that only an adventurist and aggressor regime such as the one ruling Iraq has no respect for security and commit aggressions against others.

On the Iraqi imposed war, the president who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, said that the Islamic Forces of Iran were better organized and enjoyed greater unity and competency than before. He stressed that the Iraqi aggression should be repelled once and for all.

Although reactionary regimes in the region and even those outside the region were in practice intending to hinder advance of the Islamic movement of Iran, they have now realized that the Iraqi regime was the main source of problem in the region.

He hailed services of the construction jihad members at war fronts saying that they have been playing a key role in the battlefields. Minister of Construction Jihad Bizhan Namdar Zanganeh and Imam Khomeyni's representative to the organization Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri were also present at the gathering.

Khamene'i Message to Islamic States on 'Aggression'

LD211821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 86

["Text" of message from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to the heads of Islamic countries in connection with the U.S. aggression against Libya]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you all. Today, more than ever before, the world of Islam is exposed to aggression from global arrogance headed by the United States, the arch-satan. No doubt the heavy responsibility of safeguarding the interests of more than 1 billion Muslims in the world rests on the shoulders of the leaders of the Islamic countries. The recent barbaric U.S. attacks on cities and residential areas of the Islamic state of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the massacre of dozens of Libyan civilians added another black page to the shameful history of the U.S. Government and once again proved that its conspiratorial assaults, disguised as struggle against terrorism, are nothing but deceptive moves to cover up the state terrorism of the U.S. Government. And the oppressed nations of the world have well understood these satanic moves.

The decisive stance of the Islamic states regarding such a horrific crime at this sensitive point in time is in fact a great historical test which will be reflected in the pages of history of the Islamic world and will no doubt have a well-deserved influence on future policies of the U.S. criminals.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its decisive stance in support of the Islamic state of the Libyan Jamahiriyah and has strongly condemned the barbaric U.S. move. It is prepared to cooperate to find a way to take practical measures against the aggressor. It [Iran] also expects that you, through your decisive stance toward this barbaric aggression against an Islamic nation and the massacre, and through your practical measure to combat it, will play your role in defending the sacred sanctum of the Islamic ummah and will strengthen the unity of the world Muslims in their confrontation against the enemies of Islam. No doubt, silence about the aggression of the terrorist U.S. Government against the territory of the Islamic state of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, will encourage them to launch a military aggression on the Islamic state of Libya again, and also against other Islamic countries under vague pretexts and whenever they deem it necessary. No doubt, if the Islamic countries had directly adopted a decisive stance against attacks by the occupying Jerusalem regime on the Palestinian headquarters in Tunisia and the previous attacks of the U.S. planes on the Gulf of Sidra, and

if they had resorted to some practical measures against U.S. interests, and had stopped exporting their oil — the wealth of the Islamic world — to the United States, we would not have witnessed the repeat of this blatant crime against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah today.

I take this opportunity to beseech Almighty God to grant greater honor to the world Muslims and may He bring defeat and abjectness to the enemies of Islam.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Irvani: Economy Not Affected by Oil Price Slump

LD191456 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA — Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Irvani said here Saturday that the oil price conspiracy has not and nor will it affect the Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaking in a conference on economic affairs held here Saturday, he said the plot will only help the country boost its economic potential through cutting its dependence on oil exports. The oil price slump will not affect Iran's military programmes and nor it will prevent it from providing basic goods or continuing basic projects, Irvani said.

The economic and financial affairs minister called on participants in the conference to further study ways to increase domestic agricultural products and expand domestic industries. He also urged them to find a way to substitute oil exports with non-oil exports.

Acting deputy minister of economic and financial affairs, Br. Mahdi was the next speaker who said that the wholesale price index and price of consumer goods (?increased) only 5.5 and four percent in the last Iranian year (ended March 21). Therefore, he said, the government has managed to control the inflation rate despite the Iraqi imposed war and numerous conspiracies hatched by the global arrogance. He noted that such success has never been made by other countries similarly involved in war. The conference will issue a resolution at the end of its work on Monday.

Reportage on Visit of SWAPO Official

Meets With Rafiqdust

LD181758 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA — Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust Thursday said that Iran is bound to help all oppressed people in their struggle against global arrogance. In a meeting with visiting deputy for foreign relations department and member of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) Eron Shehipo here, Rafiqdust expressed support for the Namibian people's righteous struggle led by SWAPO. IRGC minister said Iran and SWAPO have a joint enemy namely the apartheid regime of South Africa.

Eron Shehipo in return lauded Iran's stand vis-a-vis the Namibian people's campaign against South Africa. Shehipo said SWAPO expects the Islamic Republic to help the Namibian people. Practical ways for Namibia's independence was also discussed in the meeting. Meanwhile, Eron Shehipo met and conferred with acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here on the same day. The SWAPO official announced support of his organization and its leader Sam Nujoma for the Islamic revolution. In return, Besharati called for continuation of armed struggle of the Namibian people until complete independence is achieved. Besharati condemned U.S. invasion of Libya and Nicaragua. He also expressed hope that SWAPO's office in Tehran would be opened soon.

Confers With Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD200531 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA — Visiting Deputy for Foreign Relations Department and Member of the South West African People's organization (SWAPO) Eron Shehipo met and conferred with the Iranian deputy Foreign Minister for Foreign Affairs Husayn Sheykh ol-Eslam on South African apartheid regime's aggression and atrocities against its black majority population as well as the Namibian issue. The SWAPO official hailed president 'Ali Khamene'i's visit to the Frontline African states as well as Iran's support for the struggles of the people of the African Continent.

Sheykh ol-Eslam said that the unrelenting struggle of the South African people against the apartheid regime in Pretoria will one day be victorious in bringing down that regime, and that the disenfranchised black majority will rule its [words indistinct]. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to help SWAPO and Namibian nation in economic, political [words indistinct] Sheykh ol-Eslam said. He expressed hope that SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma will soon pay a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

DPRK's Kang Song-san Postpones Visit Due to Illness

LD190631 Tehran IRNA in English 0621 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA — The scheduled visit of the Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kang Song-san, to Tehran has been postponed, said the Public Relations Office of the Prime Minister's Office in a Statement issued here Friday. The statement added that according to DPRK's Government the postponement of the trip was due to illness of Prime Minister Kang Song-San. The North Korean Prime minister was scheduled to arrive in Tehran Saturday for a state visit.

Further on Convoys, Volunteers Departing for Fronts

Convoy From Qom, Yazd

LD201331 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The third Karbala' marchers' convoy, composed of two brigades of expert and combat forces, departed from Qom

for the fronts today. The warrior sons of Islam from Yazd Province who make up the first Labayk-ya Imam convoy, with an enthusiastic sendoff by the grateful people of Yazd, today departed for the fronts of the war against the Zionist enemy. In response to the call of the imam of the nation, more than 5,000 combat forces from the cities of Yazd, Ardakan, Mehriz, Baft, Taft, Mehbod, Dasht-e Zar, Zark, Mahabad, Pishkuh, Posht kuh, Herat [words indistinct], came together in a special ceremony which was staged in the grounds of the Martyr Paknezhad school in Yazd and then departed for the battlefronts in order to participate in the battle against the Zionist rulers ruling over Iraq.

Battalions From Shahrud, Damghan

LD210411 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] The fifth Karbala marchers' convoy of Shahrud, consisting of one division of specialized combat and training forces, set off for the war regions of the country amid a warm send-off by the alert inhabitants of this city. Two battalions consisting of specialized combat forces of Damghan set off for the battlefronts of war with the Zionist enemy yesterday afternoon amid the enthusiastic send-off of this town's inhabitants.

Civil Servants, Workers

LD210416 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] In continuation of the departure of civil servants to the battlefronts of the imposed war, more than 150 deputies, managers, and experts from the Industries Ministry yesterday afternoon during a ceremony departed for the fronts. This is the third Karbala' marchers convoy of the employees of this ministry that has gone to the fronts. Also, the first convoy of Labayk ya Imam, comprising a group of employees from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs yesterday set off for the fronts and was seen off by the minister and other ministry experts. More than 500 workers of Iran Khodro yesterday departed for the battlefronts during a ceremony for sending assistance to the combatants of Islam. Also according to our report, a large group of employees from the Islamic Guidance Ministry; the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education; the Ministry of Mines and Metals; the Ministry of Health, Training and Medical Training; the Ministry of Agriculture; the Atomic Energy Organization; the National Steel Company of Iran; the State Services Organization; the Technical Training Center of Tehran; and the Plasto-Kar and Production Plants of Tehran affiliated to the Foundation of the Meed, set off for the battlefronts yesterday.

2,000 Karbala' Marchers

LD211247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Summary] This morning the fourth convey of Karbala' marchers left Mahabad for the war fronts. This convoy of 2,000 was seen off by large crowds.

Tabriz, Orumiyeh, Semnan Convoys

LD212338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Summary] Our correspondents report from Eastern and Western Azarbayjan that the second Labbayk ya Imam convoy comprised of some 8,000 people from various walks of life left Tabriz for the battle-fronts. They were warmly seen off by large crowds of people. The first Labbayk ya Imam convoy comprised of 2,300 volunteers left Orumiyeh for the fronts. Also, the first Labbayk ya Imam convoy of Semnan Province made up of two divisions and comprised of 2,800 people from that province left Semnan for battlefronts.

Shelling of Iraqi Border Cities Denied

LD220824 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA — Iran Tuesday categorically denied Iraqi claims alleging Iran of having shelled Iraqi border cities and townships on Monday. A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) told IRNA that the Iraqi regime made the allegations in its 2196th military communique. The communique claimed that a housing complex in Chuwartah as well as two villages of Biyarah and Tuwaylah, and the vicinity of the city of Khanaqin were hit by the Iranian long-range artillery.

The spokesman described the allegations as "mere fabrications", adding that no Iraqi border city was hit by the Islamic Forces of Iran Monday. He stressed that whenever Iranian combatants achieved new victories in the battlefields, the Baghdad regime would make such fabrications to overshadow Iran's triumph.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,446

LD201927 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA — An Iraqi helicopter trying to approach Iranian positions in Sharhani, southern fronts, Saturday was shot down by surface-to-air fire of Muslim forces of Iran, according to a military communique here Sunday.

Communique number 2446 of the Joint staff Command of the Armed Forces says that nine tanks, one bulldozer and several Iraqi vehicles were destroyed and their crews killed in Zobeydah, southern fronts, by the artillery fire of Iranian forces.

In the western fronts, the communique says, at least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one tank, one artillery piece, four bunkers and two observation posts of theirs were demolished during exchange of artillery fire with Iranian muslim combatants.

The communique says that heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces on industrial centers of Iraqi townships of Banmil and Naft Khaneh inflicted substantial damage on them.

In the northwestern fronts, exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically between Muslim forces and Iraqi troops. Iranian combatants despatched patrol units and shelled enemy positions killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying several of their bunkers and observation posts. Ten munitions dumps of Iraqi forces were also set ablaze, according to the communique.

In Abadan Iranian gendarmerie forces silenced the Iraqi artillery and disrupted their combat-engineering operations. A number of Iraqi soldiers were also killed and or wounded, the communique says. Meanwhile, Iraqi long range artillery fire hit the city of Abadan Saturday injuring two Iranian civilians and damaging several houses.

Communique No 2,447

LD221650 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — Iran's naval forces intercepted seven commercial ships and oil tankers which were sailing under various flags near the Hormuz Strait Sunday, but released them later after being satisfied that there were no Iraqi bound goods aboard the liners, according to a military communique here Monday.

Communique Number 2447 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that at least 60 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two tanks together with five light and heavy vehicles of theirs were destroyed in sporadic clashes with Iranian Muslim combatants in the western fronts Sunday.

The command says that heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces smashed an Iraqi assault in Sumar early Monday inflicting substantial casualties and damage on them and forcing them to retreat. Iraqi soldiers taken captive in the smashed assault confessed that a battalion of 425th Brigade and a command company had sustained heavy casualties and losses.

In Qasr-e Shirin. the communique says, an Iraqi patrol unit sustained heavy casualties and was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire. It also says that heavy fire of Iranian anti-aircraft units halted reconnaissance flight of helicopters in the western fronts.

The communique says that heavy artillery fire of Iranian forces on Iraqi industrial centers in Banmil and Naft Khaneh inflicted considerable damage on them.

In heavy clashes with Iraqi troops in Zobeydat and Bayat, both in southern fronts twice early Sunday, Iranian ground and gendarmerie forces crushed Iraqi operations and killed or wounded at least 150 enemy soldiers in Bayat.

Iranian Muslim forces, the communique says, checked movement of Iraqi armoured unit and their engineering operations in Nahr-Anbar and in west of Jofeyr and elsewhere in Panjwin they prevented movement of Iraqi tanks.

Iraqi forces sustained substantial losses in the northwestern fronts Sunday, says the military communique. Long range artillery fire of Iraqi forces on the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, caused some damage.

'Close Watch' Kept on U.S. Destroyer

LD221124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Iranian naval vessels yesterday stopped 17 commercial vessels, oil tankers and tugboats of various nationalities near the Strait of Hormuz. After inspecting them and making sure that they were not carrying cargo for the Iraqi regime, they were allowed to continue on their way.

This morning, in an interview with IRNA, stressing that all vessels, including commercial vessels and oil tankers, are kept under daily control in the Strait of Hormuz, Navy Commander Captain Malekzadegan said that: Vessels belonging to arrogant powers, including the U.S. destroyer *Benjamin*, which are in the region of the Strait of Hormuz and outside Iran's territorial waters, are kept under close watch. They have been told not to enter the area designed by us. He added: In addition to vessels, the Navy carries out air reconnaissance and patrols using navak aircraft, deep inside the Persian Gulf.

Referring to the successful mining in the mouth of Khur Abdullah up to Umm Qasr, the Navy commander said: So far, about four enemy naval vessels have been destroyed after colliding with mines. Their wrecks can be seen in the area. He then referred to the recent joint naval exercise in the north of the Persian Gulf. He said: This was a very good exercise; we were able to evaluate the strength and efficiency of our units much better than in the previous exercise.

Referring to the efficiency of the Navy in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater, he said: Owing to the limited scope of the operations, the Navy used a small number of vessels. He added: We have a large number of its vessels. They are capable of operating up to 5 to 6 miles from the shore. [as heard] He finally said: Considering the limits on the scope of operations, we have mostly used marines and hovercrafts. Our large vessels, including destroyers over 3,000 tons, are present in the area. We are keeping them prepared for naval operations along the 3,000 kilometers of our coastline.

Iraq Uses Gas in Al-Faw

LD210854 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 21, IRNA — The Iraqi regime extensively deployed chemical weapons in the Al-Faw operational theater Sunday Monday morning, injuring a number of Islamic forces of Iran. The injured are under treatment in field hospitals stationed in the region.

The Iraqi regime resumed deployment of chemical weapons after its forces sustained another heavy blow in the northern Al-Faw peninsula Sunday evening. However, Iraqi statesmen who recently attended a conference of foreign ministers of non-aligned countries in New Delhi failed to make any achievement in favour of their vicious objectives. The U.N. Security Council

and the world public opinion have so far condemned the Iraqi regime for its repeated deployment of chemicals against Iranian combatants.

Iraqis in Al-Faw 'Wiped Out'

LD220931 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA — The Iraqi forces who tried in vain to infiltrate positions of the Islamic Forces of Iran in "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater, Al-Faw region, in the past two days were totally smashed, said an operational commander of the Islamic combatants of Iran in an interview with IRNA in the area, Monday.

The Iraqi regime has sent reinforcements to the area, three brigades of its first and second divisions, to challenge the Iranian forces. However, he added, they were wiped out totally something that the Iraqi commanders could not foresee.

He added that in its latest attempt the Iraqi forces suffered 4,500 casualties and the remainder fled the battlefields leaving behind all those injured. The Islamic forces of Iran are in full control of the area and check any enemy movement, he said.

Voice of Liberation: Terrorist Committee Formed

GF181840 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Syria, Libya, and the Islamic Republic of Iran have set up a nine-person committee for coordinating and expanding terrorist programs. The first meeting of this committee was recently held in Tehran. The second meeting is scheduled for Damascus, at which terrorist agents of all three states will be represented.

The committee members representing the Islamic Republic of Iran are Mir Salim, an adviser to cleric Khamene'i; and Jalaleddin Farsi and Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Each man and their advisers will be taking part in the next meetings of the committee. The formation of this committee was decided upon at the conference of foreign ministers of the three states held last week in Tehran.